

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.     A method for sending email from a remote location,  
2     comprising:  
3                 generating an electronic mail message using a personal  
4     computing device;  
5                 transferring the electronic mail to a satellite data  
6     communicator configured to provide communication with a low earth  
7     orbiting satellite; and  
8                 sending the electronic message to a low earth orbiting  
9     satellite using the satellite data communicator and an antenna coupled to  
10    the satellite data communicator.
- 1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail includes  
2     a request for weather information.
- 1           3.     The method of claim 2, wherein the method further includes  
2     receiving a responsive email containing text weather information.
- 1           4.     The method of claim 2, wherein the method further includes  
2     receiving a responsive email containing graphical weather information.
- 1           5.     The method of claim 4, wherein the graphical weather  
2     information contains dynamic weather information and not a map.
- 1           6.     The method of claim 5, further including the step of applying  
2     the received dynamic weather information to a map stored on the  
3     personal computing device.
- 1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic message  
2     includes a text message to be converted into a voice message.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic message  
2 includes sensor data received from sensors on a transportation mode.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, wherein the personal computing  
2 device is configured to generate and transmit the electronic mail on a  
3 periodic basis.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic message  
2 includes a position information obtained from a global positioning satellite.

1           11.    The method of claim 10, wherein the personal computing  
2 device is configured to generate and transmit the electronic mail on a  
3 periodic basis.

1           12.    A system for providing information to a user in a remote  
2 location, the system comprising:  
3                   a communicator, the communicator including  
4                         a personal computing device;  
5                         a satellite data communicator; and  
6                         an antenna; and  
7                   an application server system, wherein the application server  
8 system is configured to send and receive email with the communicator  
9 through a low earth orbit satellite system.

1           13.    The system of claim 12, wherein the communicator is  
2 coupled to sensors on a transportation mode.

1           14.    The system of claim 13, wherein the communicator is  
2 configured to transmit an electronic mail containing information received  
3 from the sensors to the application server system.

1           15.    The system of claim 14, wherein the electronic mail is  
2 transmitted periodically.

1           16.    The system of claim 14, wherein the electronic mail is  
2 transmitted based on the information received from the sensors.

1           17.    The system of claim 12, wherein the application server  
2 system is configured to perform an action based on the contents of the  
3 electronic mail.

1           18.    The system of claim 17, wherein the action includes  
2 converting at least a portion of the electronic message into a voice  
3 message and transmitting the voice message.

1           19.    The system of claim 17, wherein the action includes  
2 initiating an emergency response.

1           20.    The system of claim 17, wherein the action includes  
2 processing position information included in the electronic mail.

1           21.    The system of claim 20, wherein processing position  
2 information includes forwarding position information in a generated  
3 electronic mail to a pre-selected group.

1           22.    The system of claim 12, wherein the application server  
2 system is configured to automatically compose and transmit an electronic  
3 mail to the communicator based upon user defined preferences.

1           23.    The system of claim 22, wherein the user defined  
2 preferences include a selection of at least one of a news topic, a sports  
3 team, and a stock.

1           24. The system of claim 12, wherein the communicator is  
2 configured to display an indicia to indicate that an electronic mail has  
3 been received from the application server system.

1           25. A system for providing information to a user in a remote  
2 location, the system comprising:  
3               a communicator means configured to transmit and receive  
4 electronic mail over a low-earth orbiting satellite system from a remote  
5 location; and  
6               an application server means configured to perform an action  
7 based upon the contents of an electronic mail message received from the  
8 communicator means.

1           26. The system of claim 25, wherein the communicator means is  
2 coupled to sensors on a maritime vessel.

1           27. The system of claim 26, wherein the communicator means is  
2 configured to transmit an electronic mail containing information received  
3 from the sensors to the application server means.

1           28. The system of claim 27, wherein the electronic mail is  
2 transmitted according to a defined period.

1           29. The system of claim 27, wherein the electronic mail is  
2 transmitted based on the information received from the sensors.

1           30. The system of claim 25, wherein the action includes  
2 converting at least a portion of the electronic message into a voice  
3 message and transmitting the voice message.

1           31. The system of claim 25, wherein the action includes  
2 initiating an emergency response.

1           32. The system of claim 25, wherein the action includes  
2 processing position information included in the electronic mail.

1           33. The system of claim 32, wherein processing position  
2 information includes forwarding the position information included in the  
3 electronic mail in a generated electronic mail.

1           34. The system of claim 25, wherein the application server  
2 means is configured to automatically compose and transmit an electronic  
3 mail to the communicator means based upon user defined preferences.

1           35. The system of claim 34, wherein the user defined  
2 preferences include a selection of at least one of a news topic, a sports  
3 team, and a stock.

1           36. The system of claim 25, wherein the communicator means is  
2 configured to display an indicia to indicate that an electronic mail has  
3 been received from the application server means.